State	Rice	Wheat	Coarse Cereals	Pulses
Karnataka	254	38	-267	303
Kerala	-221	0	-2	1
Madhya Pradesh	338	426	-1492	-106
Maharashtra	-52	77	-1349	258
Manipur	0	0	-2	0
Meghalaya	-2	0	0	2
Mizoram	5	0	0	2
Nagaland	20	4	16	8
Orissa	135	-31	-338	-1364
Punjab	678	151	-75	-85
Rajasthan	55	831	-1292	-22
Sikkim	-3	-5	-1	-8
Tamil Nadu	295	0	-403	-156
Tripura	-17	-3	-6	-1
Uttar Pradesh	513	786	-616	-266
West Bengal	142	87	-31	-43
All India (including U.Ts.)	2579	2766	-7894	-2193

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Integrating production and marketing of farm produce

1319. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in recent report, it was stated that there was an urgent need to integrate production and marketing of farm produce through a process of reforms, to enhance price and quality competitiveness of agricultural products;

(b) whether some of the points mentioned are qualitative improvement by the use of better seeds and irrigation, infrastructure and prevention of wastage; and

(c) if so, what are Government plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) An Expert Committee set up by the Ministry of Agriculture on Strenthening and Developing of Agricultural Marketing has in its report on 29th June, 2001 *inter-alia* recommended for establishment of an alternative marketing system to enhance price and quality competitiveness of agricultural products sold by the farmers. The forms of alternative marketing identified by the committee include direct marketing by producers, marketing through farmers interest groups, setting up of terminal markets by the private sector, forward markets and futures exchanges, electronic trading-e-commerce, setting up of mega markets covering all marketing functions for domestic as well as export trade, and introduction of negotiable warehouse receipt system.

(b) The Committee has recommended development of marketing infrastructure in the form of construction of rural roads, market yards, storage, rural godown, cold storages, reefer vans, value addition and processing and telecommunications. The Committee has also recommended creation of facilities for cleaning, grading, scientific packaging at the farm level to prevent wastage during the marketing process.

Breeder seed production of crops is the mandate of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). About 24,000 quintals of breeder seed of different crops in addition to that of vegetable crops, is produced every year maintaining the quality standards.

(c) With a view to examine the recommendations made by the Expert Committee and to suggest measures to be taken for implementing them, an inter-Ministerial Task Force has been constituted by the Government.

In order to stengthen the storage infrastructure in the country, a new Central Sector Scheme of Capital Investment Subsidy for construction/ renovation/expansion of Rural Godowns has been approved on 26.2.2002 to be implemented during 2001—03. The backended subsidy under the scheme is linked to institutional credit and will be available to projects financed by Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks. The project for construction of rural godowns can be taken up by individual, farmers, group

of farmers/growers, partnership/Proprietary firms, Non-Government Organisations, Self Help Groups, Companies, Corporations Cooperatives, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees. Marketing Boards and Agro Processing Corporations in the entire country.

The National Horticulture Board (NHB), is implementing the scheme of Capital Investment Subsidy for construction/expansion/ modernisation of cold storage/Storages for Horticultural Produce. Under this scheme, the promoter of cold storage is eligible for 25% subsidy subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50 lakhs and subsidy @33.33% of the project cost upto a ceiling of Rs. 60 lakhs per project for North Eastern States.

The Government is also providing assistance for horticulture crops to the farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Macro Management Scheme @50% of cost for small and marginal, SC & ST and Women farmers and 35% of the cost of other category of farmers for taking up drip irrigation.

Wheat to Afghanistan

1320. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat sent to Afghanistan;

(b) what is the quantity of wheat yet to be sent; and

(c) whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research has declared that Indian wheat sent to Afghanistan was not infected, as alleged by Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No wheat has been supplied to Afganistan so far. However, the Govt. has committed to offer humanitarian assistance including provision of 10 lakh metric tonnes of wheat to internally and externally displaced, Afghans. The Government is in touch with various UN agencies including the World Food Programme, to work out the modalities for sending the above assistance.

(c) Question does not arise, Sir.

Livestock population *vis-a-vis* fodder availability

1321. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the population of livestock in the country, State-wise, and per capita availability of fodder; and